IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1) (currently amended) A fastener for use in surgery comprising:

a body having a base and a leg extending from said base; said body having a width dimension; said leg having a pointed end, an unformed length dimension measured from said base to said pointed end, the leg configured to be cut to [[and]] a formed length dimension measured between said base and an end, with the end located between the pointed end and said base ~~and being defined by cutting the leg; and~~ such that the unformed length is [[being]] greater than the formed length; and

a pledget on the body adjacent the base.

2-4) (canceled)

5) (currently amended) A wire fastener for use in minimally invasive surgery comprising:

a U-shaped body having a base and two legs extending from said base ~~crown~~; said body having a width dimension measured from one leg to the other; each leg having a pointed end and a length dimension measured from said base to the pointed end thereof; the length dimension of each leg being greater than said width dimension by a factor of five or more; and

a pledget on the body adjacent the base.

6) (canceled)

7) (original) The fastener defined in claim 5, wherein the length dimension of said leg is greater than said width dimension by a factor of ten or more.

8) (original) The fastener defined in claim 5, wherein the length dimension of said leg is greater than said width dimension by a factor of one hundred or more.

9-20) (canceled)

21) (original) A method of placing a fastener in a patient during surgery comprising:

providing a fastener for use in surgery having a body having a base and a leg extending from said base, said leg having a pointed end and a length measured from said base, said length being indeterminate;

locating the fastener inside a patient on one side of a tissue being operated on;

driving a pointed end of the fastener through the tissue;

grasping the leg after the leg has penetrated the tissue;

tensioning the leg and moving the base of the fastener against the tissue;

immobilizing the leg on the other side of the tissue;

engaging the end of the immobilized leg; and

bending the leg to force the end back towards the base of the fastener.

22) (original) The method defined in claim 21 in which the step of immobilizing the leg is performed by grasping the leg on the side of the tissue opposite that of the base of the fastener whereby the tissue is located between the base of the fastener and any means used to immobilize the leg.

23) (original) The method defined in claim 22 further including a step of cutting the leg.

24) (original) A method of placing a fastener in a patient during surgery comprising:

providing a fastener for use in surgery having a body having a base and a leg extending from said base, said leg having a point on one end thereof and a length measured from said base, said length being indeterminate;

locating the fastener inside a patient on one side of a tissue being operated on;

driving a pointed end of the fastener through the tissue;

engaging the fastener only at the leg after the leg has penetrated the tissue;

tensioning the engaged leg and moving the fastener until the base of the fastener moves against the tissue;

engaging the end of the immobilized leg; and

bending the leg to force the end back towards the base of the fastener.

25) (currently amended) A method of placing a fastener in a patient during surgery comprising:

providing a fastener for use in surgery having a body having a base and a leg extending from said base, said leg having a point on one end thereof and a length measured from said base, said length being indeterminate;

locating the fastener inside a patient on one side of a tissue being operated on;

driving a pointed end of the fastener through the tissue;

using only the leg of the fastener, moving the fastener into position; and

cutting ~~forming~~ the fastener to form an end between the base and the pointed end.

26) (currently amended) A method of placing a fastener in a patient during minimally invasive surgery comprising:

providing a fastener having a body with a formable portion and having a base and a leg extending from said base; said body having a width dimension; said leg having a pointed end~~, an unformed length dimension measured from said base to said pointed end, and a formed length dimension measured between said base and an end, with the end located between the pointed end and said base and being defined by cutting the leg; and the unformed length being greater than the formed length~~;

locating the fastener inside a patient on one side of a tissue being operated on;

driving the pointed end through the tissue;

grasping the leg after the leg has penetrated the tissue;

tensioning the leg and moving the base of the fastener against the tissue;

immobilizing the leg on the other side of the tissue;

cutting the leg to form an [[the]] end between the base and the pointed end;

engaging the end of the immobilized leg; and

bending the leg to force the end back towards the base of the fastener.

27) (original) The method defined in claim 26 including placing a pledget on the fastener adjacent to the base.

28) (original) The method defined in claim 26 including placing a prosthesis on the fastener from the pointed end and moving the prosthesis on the fastener leg into position adjacent the tissue.

29) (original) The method defined in claim 26 including grasping the tissue prior to driving the pointed end through the tissue.

30) (original) The method defined in claim 26 including placing a plurality of fasteners.

31) (original) The method defined in claim 30 including a step of organizing the fasteners.

32-58) (canceled)

59) (new) A method of placing a prosthetic device during surgery on a patient, comprising:

placing a plurality of long wire fasteners through tissue at a surgical site, the fasteners comprising legs that extend outside the patient;

guiding a sewing cuff down the legs to place the sewing cuff at the surgical site; and

guiding a prosthetic device down the legs into place next to the sewing cuff.

60) (new) The method of claim 59, further comprising:

cutting portions of the legs adjacent the prosthetic device to form the fasteners into anchors, and

forming the remaining portions of the legs to secure the prosthetic device at the surgical site.

61) (new) The method of claim 60, wherein forming the remaining portions of the legs comprises bending the remaining portions of the legs over into a staple-like configuration.

62) (new) The method of claim 60, wherein a tool is placed on the legs outside the patient's body and slid down the legs to cut and form the legs.

63) (new) The method of claim 59, wherein guiding the sewing cuff down the legs comprises placing the sewing cuff on the legs and sliding the sewing cuff down the legs.

64) (new) The method of claim 59, wherein the surgical site comprises an aorta within a heart.

65) (new) The method of claim 59, wherein the surgical site comprises an aortic valve annulus.

66) (new) The method of claim 59, wherein the prosthetic device comprises a heart valve.

67) (new) A method of placing a prosthetic heart valve device within an annulus of a heart of a patient, comprising:

placing a plurality of long fasteners through tissue at the annulus, the fasteners comprising legs that extend outside the patient;

guiding a sewing cuff down the legs to place the sewing cuff at the annulus;

guiding a prosthetic heart valve down the legs into place next to the sewing cuff;

cutting portions of the legs adjacent the prosthetic device to form the fasteners into anchors, and

forming the remaining portions of the legs to secure the prosthetic device at the annulus.

68) (new) The method of claim 67, wherein forming the remaining portions of the legs comprises bending the remaining portions of the legs over into a staple-like configuration.

69) (new) The method of claim 67, wherein the annulus comprises an aortic valve annulus.

70) (new) The method of claim 26, further comprising guiding a prosthetic device down the leg before cutting the leg.

71) (new) The method of claim 70, wherein the prosthetic device comprises a sewing cuff that is guided down the legs to a surgical site, and a heart valve that is guided down the legs into place next to the sewing cuff.

72) (new) The method of claim 71, wherein the surgical site comprises an aortic valve annulus.

73) (new) A method of placing a prosthetic heart valve device within an annulus of a heart of a patient, comprising:

placing a plurality of long fasteners through tissue at the annulus, the fasteners comprising legs that extend outside the patient;

guiding a prosthetic heart valve device down the legs to place the prosthetic device at the annulus;

cutting portions of the legs adjacent the prosthetic device to form the fasteners into anchors, and

forming the remaining portions of the legs to secure the prosthetic device at the annulus.